

II. IN THE CLAIMS:

A. Please enter the following complete listing of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A pouring spout for use with a closed container containing building materials comprising:

a cylindrical inner housing having an open top end and a removable tethered cap;
a pair of opposing punch blades affixed to said cylindrical inner housing for insertion with a downward force into a top surface of a container, said cylindrical inner housing and said punch blades for providing a discharge conduit for said container;

a projection spur formed on a surface of each of said punch blades for forcing open said top surface of said container; and

an outer safety sleeve being vertically movable over said cylindrical inner housing for covering said punch blades when said punch blades are withdrawn from said top surface of said container.

2. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein said cylindrical inner housing comprises an anti-drip collar.

3. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein said cylindrical inner housing comprises a plurality of guide ribs for cooperating with said outer safety sleeve.

4. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein said cylindrical inner housing is comprised of plastic.

5. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein said tethered cap includes a retainer ring that surrounds said cylindrical inner housing.

6. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein each of said opposing punch blades is comprised of stainless steel sheet metal.

7. (Currently amended) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein each of said projection spurs is comprised of stainless steel sheet metal and each is formed by piercing a said respective ~~one~~ surface on each of said punch blades.

8. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein said outer safety sleeve includes a cylindrical plastic construction.

9. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 wherein said outer safety sleeve includes a stabilizer flange for enabling said pouring spout to stand vertically when not in use.

10. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 further including a raised ring formed on said cylindrical inner housing for stopping said cylindrical inner housing at said top surface of said container.

11. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 further comprising a seal washer positioned between a raised ring formed on said cylindrical inner housing and said top surface of said container.

12. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 1 further including a bearing surface formed within said cylindrical inner housing for supporting said opposing punch blades.

13. (Currently amended) A pouring spout for use with a closed container containing building materials comprising:

a cylindrical inner housing having an open top end and a removable tethered cap;
a pair of opposing punch blades affixed to said cylindrical inner housing for insertion with a downward force into a top surface of a container, said cylindrical inner housing and said punch blades for providing a discharge conduit for said container;

a locking notch integrally formed in each of said opposing punch blades for securing said punch blades to said top surface of said container; and

an outer safety sleeve for covering said punch blades when said punch blades are withdrawn from said top surface of said container, said safety sleeve being vertically moveable along over said cylindrical inner housing.

14. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 13 wherein each of said locking notches comprises a serrated edge.

15. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 13 wherein each of said locking notches is rectangular-shaped.

16. (Currently amended) A pouring spout for use with a closed container containing building materials comprising:

a cylindrical inner housing having an open top end and a removable tethered cap;
a pair of opposing punch blades affixed to said cylindrical inner housing for insertion with a downward force into a top surface of a container, said opposing punch blades having a plurality of penetrations formed there through for cooperating with a corresponding plurality of projections formed within said cylindrical inner housing, said cylindrical inner housing and said punch blades for providing a discharge conduit for said container; and

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an outer safety sleeve for covering said punch blades when said punch blades are withdrawn from said top surface of said container, said safety sleeve being vertically moveable ~~along~~ over said cylindrical inner housing.

17. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 16 wherein said cylindrical inner housing comprises a plurality of vertical guide ribs formed thereon.

18. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 16 wherein said safety sleeve further includes a top ring having a plurality of slots formed therein.

19. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 16 wherein said safety sleeve further includes a top ring having a plurality of slots formed therein for cooperating with a plurality of vertical guide ribs formed on said cylindrical inner housing.

20. (Original) The pouring spout of Claim 16 wherein said plurality of projections formed within said cylindrical inner housing is comprised of plastic.